

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action, Claims 1, 2, 6, 8 and 9 are amended. Claim 3 is cancelled. Claims 1, 2 and 4-9 remain in the Application. Reconsideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested in view of the above amendment and the following remarks.

I. Claim Objections

Claim 3 is objected to as being of improper dependent form, specifically for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Claim 3 is cancelled.

Claim 1 is objected to because of typographic informalities. Claim 1 has been amended as suggested by the Examiner.

II. Claims Rejected Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

A. Claims 1-5 and 8-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,260,990 issued to Dejacó (“Dejacó”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,208,958 issued to Cho (“Cho”) and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,615,174 issued to Arslan (“Arslan”).

To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, the relied upon references must teach or suggest every limitation of the claim such that the invention as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to one skilled in the art.

Applicants amend Claim 1 to include “the excitation parameter translating means to receive the frame rate-corrected formant parameters from the formant frame rate converting means before the translated formant parameters are quantized by the formant parameter quantizing means, the excitation parameter translating means further to convert the frame rate-corrected formant parameters to generate converted parameters, to interpolate the converted parameters by weighing sub-frames to generate interpolated parameters, and to construct a corresponding perceptual weighing filter by using the interpolated parameters.” Independent Claims 8 and 9 are similarly amended. Support for the amended limitations can be found, for example, at page 10, lines 9-24 and Figures 3 and 8.

Dejacó discloses an excitation parameter translator 630, which includes a speech synthesizer 606 and a searcher 608 (Figure 6). Dejacó discloses that the speech synthesizer 606 generates a target signal using the quantized output from formant parameter translator 620, the

input codebook and pitch excitation parameters (col. 8, lines 25-31). The searcher 608 obtains an output codebook and pitch parameters (col. 8, lines 31-32). Dejacco does not disclose that the excitation parameter translator 630 receives frame rate-corrected formant parameters before the translated formant parameters are quantized. Dejacco also does not disclose that the excitation parameter translator 630 converts the frame rate-corrected formant parameters to generate converted parameters, interpolates the converted parameters by weighing sub-frames to generate interpolated parameters, and constructs a corresponding perceptual weighing filter by using the interpolated parameters. There is no indication in Dejacco that the speech synthesizer 606 or the searcher 608 interpolates converted frame rate-corrected formant parameters by weighing sub-frames, and uses the interpolated parameters to construct a corresponding perceptual weighing filter.

Cho and Arslan do not supply these missing elements. Thus, independent Claims 1, 8 and 9 are non-obvious over Dejacco, Cho and Arslan.

Further, in the rejection of dependent Claim 6, the Examiner relies on Kao for disclosing a perceptual weighing filter. However, Kao does not disclose that the perceptual weighing filter is constructed with the interpolated parameters obtained from the interpolated and converted frame rate-corrected formant parameters. Rather, Kao disclose that the perceptual weighing filter receives the output of a linear predictive coding (LPC) analyzer to perform perceptual weighing (Figure 4). Thus, independent Claims 1, 8 and 9, as amended, are non-obvious over all of the cited references.

Claims 2-5 depend from Claim 1 and incorporate the limitations thereof. Thus, for at least the reasons mentioned above, these dependent claims are non-obvious over the cited references. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 1-5 and 8-9 is requested.

B. Claims 6 and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Dejacco in view of Cho, and further in view of Arslan, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,371,853 issued to Kao et al. (“Kao”).

Claims 6 and 7 depend from Claim 1 and incorporate the limitations thereof. Thus, for at least the reasons mentioned above, these dependent claims are non-obvious over Dejacco, Cho, Arslan and Kao. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 6 and 7 is requested.


CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all claims are now in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited at the earliest possible date. If there are any additional fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge those fees to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

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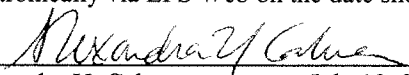
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